## WASHINGTON CITY.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1869.

Business Notice.

THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT AND PIS CON-TRACTORS.

The Washington correspondent of the Pennsylvania Inquirer appears to be wonderfully exercised with respect to the embarrassments of the Post Office Department-so much so, indeed, as to distress himself with the thought that to remove them the President may be led to violate the laws he bes sworn to execute. But, after all, perhaps the danger is not so imminent as our worthy friend imagines. His fears may not be well founded; and, if not, it will be but an act of humanity to dissipate them.

In the absence of appropriations for the postal service, caused, we still assert, by the factious course pursued by the republican party in Congress, it is proposed to give each contractor an official statement of the amount due him from the government, upon which he may, if need be, realize the means to enable him to execute his contract. Butthis correspondent objects to this arrangement on the ground that it will fail to accomplish the desired object, because "the transfer of any such certified account or claim is prohibited by law, and that it would be absolutely null and void. In support of this assumption he quotes the first section of the act 26th of February, 1853, "to prevent frauds upon the treasury of the United States," which does, indeed, in severe terms, prohibit the transfer or as signment "of any claim upon the United States," and

"Now what kind of security would these audited and certified amounts be in the hands of a third person, when the law declares that any transfer or assignment of any claim upon the United States, and all orders, powers of attorney, or other authorities for receiving payment of any such claim, shail be absolutely null and void, unles

any such claim, shall be absolutely null and void, unless freely given after the warrant for its payment has been issued?

"As I have before said, such audited and certified accounts would be worth no more in the hards of an assignee or third party than so much white paper. It is evident, then, that mail contractors cannot rely on their certified amounts to aid them in transporting the mail from the 1st of July until the meeting of Congress, unless moneyed men are willing to take their honor as security for advances made on these certified amounts, for the latter are no legal security whatever."

It so happens that the law referred to, soon after its passage, received a construction different from that now suggested, and that, too, from an official whose judgment upon such matters must command the respect of the correspondent himself. At any rate, Mr. Whittlesey's construction of the statute has since been constantly followed, as we believe, and it is so manifestly just and proper that no mortal man ever before found fault with it so far as is known We presume to express our conviction that even the correspondent alluded to has, as an attorney, drawn money from the treasury repeatedly under it, without ever dreaming that he was guilty of doing a wrong. That our readers may understand this subject thoroughly, we quote at some length from the circular prepared by the First Comptroller of the Treasury (Mr. Whittlesey) some six years ago, and which is doubtless still in force;

"11. The word claim has been sometimes used in a wague manner, as including all personal demands; but the most general sense in which it is used, and the one that is most accurate, limits it to demands that are dis-puted or uncertain in their nature. A debt admitted to be due, or evidenced by a judgment, bond, promissory note, bill of exchange, or other instrument in writing the execution and validity of which is not disputed, is o a higher nature than a mere claim. Uncertain damages arising from a tort, or from the violation of a contract constitute a claim, not a debt. The rights of citizens to compensation for injuries received from the French government prior to the treaty for the purchase of Louisiana are usually spoken of as French claims. So also the claims of American citizens for injuries received from the government of Mexico prior to the late war, which were adjudicated by commissioners, were properly which were adjudicated by commissioners, were properly called claims, and had not the certainty and essential character of debts. The claims of citizens to be indemnified for depredations committed upon them by Indian are properly called claims, and could not with propriety be called debts. So pensions and bounties subsequently granted to persons who have served in war, though found-ed on equitable considerations, yet they did not consti-tute legal debts, and the right to the pension or bounty granted is but a claim, and not a debt.

"12. A salary account is not strictly and correctly speaking a claim; it is a demand of a higher nature, and of a more definite and certain character than a mere other services rendered in pursuance of law, or rendered under a contract made in pursuance of law, constitutes a lebt, and not a mere claim. So also an account for me terials, provisions, and supplies of any kind, furnished for any of the departments of the government in pursu-ance of a contract legally made, constitutes a debt of a higher nature than a mereclaim. But if the party claims an extra allowance beyond what the law or the terms of the contract give him, founded on equitable considera-tions, such as the difficulty of the service, the alleged hardness of the contract, and the insufficiency of the compensation, the amount claimed as an extra allowa is properly a claim, and not a debt. If a dispute ar in relation to the commencement or termination of is properly a claim, and not a debt. If a dispute arise in relation to the commencement or termination of salary, the annual amount of which is fixed by law, an salary, the annual amount of which is fixed by law, and the accounting officers disallowed portion of the demand, the amount so disallowed becomes a mere claim. So in relation to other accounts, when the accounting officers act upon an account, disallow some of the items as ille-gal or overcharged, and allow the remainder, the items so disallowed lose the character of a debt, and become a

13. The dividing line between debts and mere claim "13. The dividing line between debts and mere claims is observed with tolerable accuracy in prescribing the duties of committees in Congress. It is the business of the Committee of Ways and Means to bring in bills to provide for the payment of all debts due from the United States, as well as for the ordinary current expenses of the government, and to pay all such claims as have been recognised by law: that committee has nothing to do with claims which the laws do not recognise as legal and existing. On the contrary, claims for uncertain damages, for extra compensations, for pensions, and for depredafor extra compensations, for pensions, and for depreda-tions, trespasses, and injuries, are usually referred to the Committee on Claims, and other committees designated by the rules, to examine, report upon, and bring in bills for the payment of such sums as the appropriate commit-

for the payment of such sums as the appropriate committee may deem jest.

"14. It has been customary for salary officers, contractors, and other creditors of the United States, todraw orders or drafts on the government, which they negotiate; and thus restize the amount due them before
the accounts are passed. This is often a great convenience to persons living at a distance, on the Pacific
coast, or anywhere west of the Mississippi. Salaries are
paid quarterly, but the account for a quarter cannot be
passed until after the end of the quarter. Heretofore
drafts have been frequently drawn for a quarter's salary,
or for a portion of it, and sent here before the end of the
quarter; and when so received, the account has been
passed, and the warrant issued to the owner of the draft
as the assignee of the salary. If the statute of February as the assignee of the salary. If the statute of February hast should be applied to salary accounts, no such drafts could be drawn until after the end of the quarter, after the account was passed, and a warrant on the treasurer sesued for the payment thereof. The result would be, that many officers would be compelled to wait from 30 racy, and should me cive warrants on the treasurer, or the treasurer's ciation.

drafts, before they could realize any portion of their salthat the statute should be applied to any such cases.

'15. What was the evil for which the remedy designed? A reference to the terms of those stat

designed. A received to the vision of the matter practice of agents in prosecuting claims before Congress, indicate the evil, and the object of the remedy. Agents were in the habit of getting general powers of atto.noy to prosecute before Congress or the departments uncertain and doubtful claims, and to obtain and receive the amount which might be allowed upon them; and it many instances assignments were obtained of large claims for very small sums from persons not knowing their rights. In such cases unsuspecting persons were put into the hands and power of sharp and cunning agents and shrewd unscrapulous speculators; the claimant offer had no means of protecting himself against the fals entations and deceptions of agents and purchasen and the agent might misrepresent the amount collected. Hence the requirement that the power of attorney, draft, assignment, or transfer should refer to the statute under which the claim is allowed, and that the amount due should be ascertained, and a warrant issued for the same, before any such power of attorney, draft, transfer, or asignment can be legally made. It is obvious that this s required by the statute in order that the claimant may stilly rederstand the extent of his rights, and the amount flowed to him, before he can legally assign or transfer the same, or authorize any other person to receive the amount. But no such precaution is necessary in relation to salary accounts, accounts for services rendered, or sup-plies furnished, or for any other form of debt, about the ount of which there has never been any dispute. The officer or creditor in all such cases knows the precise amount, or very nearly the amount, due him; and no good can arise, but often very great inconvenience and evil, from imposing on him restrictions in relation to the time and mode of transferring and useigning the same, or of making powers of attorney for the receipt thereof."

Paragraphs 16, 17, and 18 of the circular relate to ertain payments to soldiers and sailors, and need not be presented in this connexion.

" POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

" 19. In making payment to a contractor for trans porting the mail, no warrant is issued in his name. The contractors collect of the postmasters, or they draw orders on the department, or the department sends them drafts, according to the circumstances of the case. Collections from postmasters are generally by the carriers, on thority given by the contractors, the department having signated the offices from which collections are to be

expenses necessarily to be incurred in transporting the mail, and generally to obtain a credit in advance. They are lodged by the drawee or assignee with the auditor, to be paid when due, if the department shall then be indebted to the contractor." " 20. Orders are drawn by mail contractors to pay for

We also pass over paragraphs 22, 23, and 24, and ome to the conclusion, which reads thus:

" 25. My conclusion is, that ordinary debts and counts against the government, which have been legally contracted and never disputed, are not claims within the meaning of those statutes, and that the statutes do not apply to them, but apply to uncertain demages and losses, extra allowanges, pensions, equitable demands, claims for the correction of alleged errors, claims for a return or repayment of duties, items of account which have been rejected, or are disputed, and such classes of cases as are usually referred to the Committee on Claims, nittees other than the Committee of Ways

It will be seen, then, that the law does not forbid the assignment of a debt the exact amount of which has been ascertained. It merely prohibits the trans fer of claims, the amount of which has not been as certained, and this it does for the protection of the claimants, who, otherwise, for a nominal consideration and in utter ignorance of their legal rights, would be liable to part with large interests to men inprincipled enough to buy them on such terms.

If this be so, we think the mail contractors can rely on their certified amounts to aid them in ransporting the mails," for "moneyed men" will not be obliged simply " to take their honor as security for advances made on these certified amounts" as they will for a fair consideration become the actual owners of "specific debts of record against the United States," which the government will be bound-

We trust, then, this correspondent will dismiss his fears, and once more allow himself to turn his attention to the noble enterprise in which he is already understood to have been so successfully engaged that of resuscitating the old whig party.

" JUMMY JONES. - The announcement that ex Govern or Jones, of Tennessee, is supporting the nomination and election of John Netherland as the opposition candidate for governor of that State is significant of the future course of the great body of those old-line whigs who supported Buchanan and the democracy. As they helped to put in power the most profligute administration the country has ever had, the term 'returning prodigals' may well be applied to them. We hope that they have had a surf modern democracy.

We clip the above from the Georgia Chronicle and entinel, an opposition paper, to remind our readers that this same "Jimmy Jones" is the identical individual that was heralded last summer as stumping the State of Illinois in fayar of the re-election of Ser ator Douglas. The southern democracy will under stand from this how far, and to what extent, sympathy with the anti-Lecompton faction at the North corresponds with the same feeling for the success of the democratic party in the South. At the North, the sympathizers with Judge Douglas claimed to be as good democrats as could be found anywhere. From the position of the late senator from Tennessee however, it seems that the opposition was more vital than a mere difference of opinion with the administration on the Lecompton question. We opine that this is only the beginning of the developments that will take place, in showing the hydra-headed mon ster that is to come out of this rebellion against the democracy, from which the administration would have saved the party. It is not yet too late to profit by the sagacity and wisdom that the administration exhibited on that occasion, by rallying around the old standard, and renewing our vows upon that time-honored altar, which is the only true and safe one for the honest worshippers of constitutional liberty. The present incumbent, Gov. Harris, and again the candidate of the democratic party for that office in Tennessee, is as true as any man in the North or South. The convention that nominated him endorsed the administration, which it seems calls forth opposition from those who have heretofore supported it. We should like to know how those of our friends, at the North, that have been misled by the course of some of the northern democrats, appreciate amalgamation with an old-fashioned, federal, anti-Jackson, John Bull whig for governor of Tennessee, in the place of one whose democracy was never questioned, and whose veneration for Jackson was never doubted. These evidences of rebellion against the democratic party are different in different sections. In Tennessee it manifests itself in a direct, bold advocacy of the opposition. In Pennsylvania it attempts to play upon the credulity of the public, by getting up a bogus convention to indicate a division in the party, when really no such division exists. They all tend, how-

ever, to the same object by the defeat of the democ-

racy, and should meet with the same decided denun-

INACQUEATION OF THE TEHUANTEPEC RAIL- REPUDIATION OF THE BOGUS CALL FOR A DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION IN PENN-

This railroad was formally inaugurated at Huile s few miles from Tehuantepec, on the 5th ult. The attendance was large, and the proceedings were interesting Among the speeches delivered was the following by Sentor Slidell, so well known to our citizens :

"The work which we are about to commence," Mr. 8. said, "Is one fraught with such important consequences, and one destined to exercise such a beneficial influence over the future, not only of the two sister republics of the United States and Mexico, but also, in a measurement. or the three states and an arrange of the world at large, that its value and importance can hardly be overestimated. The undertaking which, in our humble way, we are now initiating, and which, with the blessing of Providence, we hope to carry out to a successful issue, is one of great difficulty and labor, requiring the outlay of a large capital and calling for the display of the highest powers of science. It is another step forward in the march of civilization upon this continent—another link added to the golden chain which is to bind together the scattered members of the great human brotherhood. Experience has shown us that when men are kept apart, whether by imshown as that when men are kept apart, whether by the possable mountains, or desert plains, or tempestaous occans, they are liable to form mistaken ideas, and to entertain unfounded prejudices against each other; but that, when once brought together, whether for the pur-poses of commerce or of social intercourse, they soon earn to discard such narrow and mistaken notions, and to cultivate a friendly feeling towards the good men of to cultivate a friendly feeling towards the good men of other countries and of other races. This work has brought us here together from widely-distant places—from the United States, from France, from England, from Germany—for the purpose of co-operating in the opening of a new, a short, a safe and pleasant avenue to the various nations and races who dwell upon the Pacific borders and upon the shores of the Atlantic. Through and by this new route, the inhabitants of the North and of the South, of the East and of the West—the European and the Asiatic, the American and the Mexican, the Chilian, the Peruvian, the can and the Mexican, the Chilian, the Peruvian, the Sandwich Islander, the Malay, the Chinaman and the Australian, will come together and become better ac quainted with each other. When this railroad shall b completed the distance between the Atlantic and the Pu-cific will be crossed in six hours, and in some cases in four, without inconvenience, and without danger, through a most beautiful, fertile, and salubrious region. This is, most beautiful, fertile, and salubrious region. This is, then, a work in which all are interested, foreigners as well as Mexicans and Americans. Before the completion of the work, which we are now beginning under the noonday splendor of a tropical sun, there may, and must be, some dark hours. There may be obstacles to encounter from which even bold men might shrink; but let us hope for strength to surmount them, and trust that every gloomy doubt may, like our own shadows of this hour, be cast beneath our feet. And as such an understand of the strength with the strength with the strength without the nour, be cast beneath our feet. And as such an under-taking cannot be carried successfully through without the protection and the blessing of Heaven I now call upon our respected guest the Rev. Father Mauricio Lopez, to invoke the Divine benediction upon this, the beginning of the work upon the railroad of the Louisiana Tehu-antone Commence. antenec Company."

## POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE.

The New York Daily News, of the 31st. ult., gives the dlowing notice of a Democratic meeting in Brooklyn:

"A large and enthusiastic meeting was held last eveange and enthusiastic meeting was need last eve-ing at the City Hall park, Brooklyn, to ratify the Dem-eratic nominations made for city officers. It was an old fashioned out pouring of the Democracy, and argues well for success. Mayor Powell is deservedly popular in Brocklyn, and will be re-elected by a lagge mojority, not-withstanding the efforts of the Tribune to defeat him. Let the Democracy once more come together as a unit, and we have no fear of the result. Let all feelings of re-sentment or disappointments be forgotten, and victory! alone the watchword, and your triumph is certain—what

The New London (Conn.) Daily Star, speaking of Col. Baker, the democratic candidate for Congress in that dis trict, says :

and coronicle wants to know what Col. Baker has done? We'll tell you, neighbor. He has spent a life of honorable devotion to his country. He has been ready, not only to light its open and avowed enemies in arms, but those who are plotting destruction of the liberties of the country from within its borders. We'll tell you another good thing he did—viz: tried a fellow by the name of John C. Fremont before a court martial, which was of the best and of the least an John C. Fremont before a court martial, which was f the best acts of his life."

The New Haven (Conn.) Daily Register, of the 30th, ult., states that Hon. John Cochrane, of N. Y., and Senator Lane, of Oregon, were in that city, and would address the democracy that night,

CONGRESS AND THE ELECTION OF ITS MEM

(From the Wilmington (N. C.) Journal, March 31.]

We think that recent events must have drawn public attention to the fact that for a portion of every other year there is actually no Congress of the United States. So far as North Carolina is concerned, there are no repre-So lar as North Carbina is concerning, there are the representatives between the fourth of March and the first Thursday in August. The President of the United States could not call Congress together without manifest injustice to many of the States from which no delegations have been chosen. This fact, indeed, influenced the adaye been chosen. This fact, indeed, influenced the ad-ninistration in deciding not to call an extra session this

This state of things is bad enough at any time, but might be disastrous indeed in the event of a war break-ing out in Europe, or the occurrence of hostilities direct ed against us by any foreign power. In this State there ed against us by any foreign power. In this state there is, we believe, a power yested in the governor to order elections in certain cases, intended, perhaps, to meet such an emergency; but in several of the States whose elections are held in the same year no such provision exists. It is true that, generally speaking, the fall before the regular meeting of a new Congress is time enough to elect representatives, and it is desirable that these representatives should come as freely from the people as years.

elect representatives, and it is desirable that these representatives should come as fresh from the people as possible; still it cannot be denied that there is this great objection to late elections, that for a great part of the time the State has actually no delegation—no congressmen authorized to represent her interests on the floor of the lower house of the federal legislature.

We think time and experience have shown the expediency, indeed the necessity, of having elections in all the States for members of the new Congress before the term of the members of the old one shall have expired, thus obviating the difficulties which now exist, and which might paralyze the whole operations of our federal mamight paralyze the whole operations of our federal ma

We know that there may be urged this practical objection against holding elections for Congress in this State before the expiracy of the old Congress, that it would throw such elections into the same year with those for governor and members of the State legislature; but this is not an insuperable objection by any means, as the ex-

erience of other States shows. We would like to see this matter discussed by the pregenerally. It can bave no party character, and we thin the reason of the thing will be apparent to all.

THE ST. LOUIS DEMOCRACY.

From the St. Louis Leader, March 29.1

Last night the city was literally swarming with democrats marching with torchlights, transparencies, an music, to the rendezvous at Mozart Hall. The meetin was held in the open air, at the corner of Fifth an Broadway, and was one of the largest and most enthusiastic ever held in this city. Bogy, Barret, Bowlin and others aidressed the multitude. If proof were wanting to demonstrate the interest and enthusiasm of the people to the coming election the meeting last night was suffi-

The Americans held a sort of meeting near the Mot Engine House, and succeeded in raising a crowd of about a hundred by firing a cannon on top of the Big Mound an nour or two and burning a couple of tar barrels. The black republicans, also, done a little in the way of "ration Diack republicans, also, done a little in the way of "ratification" in the rotunda of the court-house. These later meetings were small, tame affairs, and utterly lacking in the enthusiasm which animates the democratic masses. They evidently feel gloomy and desponding, and anticipate the defeat which awaits them.

Sugar Crop of Louisiana. -- Mr. Champongirs's Re ort of the Sugar Crop of Louisiana for the present year nows the entire product to be 365,900 hogsheads. The crop each year for the last ten years was as fol-

From the above it will be seen that the crop of 1858 is the largest one made during the ten years, except that for the year 1853.—Cinvinuali Price Current.

[From the Philadelphia Ponnsylvanian, April 1.] A gentleman from Delaware county informs us that mes of Thos. Liversidge, E. R. Minshall, and James Riddle, published in the Press of Monday last, as signer to the call, were used without their authority; that thes men are unwilling to be understood as favoring contin and disorganization in the party, simply because of some past and gone issue. Our informant also assures us that several, whose names are given in the Press, are known as having belonged to the "dark-lantern" order, and that P. Baker, W. Hinkson, J. H. Hinkson, J. L. Hichman, and others of them, were openly against the party last fall, and that the two Hinkson: have been in the

practice of voting against democratic candidates.

The Greensburg (Westmoreland county) Democrat says it has the authority of Gen. Wm. A. Stokes for exping that his mane has been signed to the bogus call (of Forney & Co.) without his knowledge and without any inti-

The following letter will explain itself :

GERMANTOWN, March 30, 1859. DEAR SIR: I was much amused in looking over the DEAR SIR: I was much amused in looking over the Press, a day or two ago, to see the call of the bogus convention to be held at Harrisburg, April 13, signed, as it said, by democrats. Some of the gentlemen are democrats, but did not authorize any one to put their names there, and now publicly denounce the slander. Others voted the democratic ticket when they had an interest in doing so, and not without. And in a letter purporting to come from Germantown, denouncing the act of the State convention just held at Harrisburg, I find my name, which I openly pronounce a forgery, as I never put it there, nor authorized any one clas to do it for me. As to the active men of the party hereabouts. I think I know the active men of the party hereabouts. I think I know them all, and have not yet heard the first man say that he approved holding the bogus convention. Men that voted last fall with the opposition can do what they please, as they have not the sympathy of the democrats, nor will they ever have mine. they have not they ever have mine. Respectfully, yours, THOMAS McDOWELL.

THE PROSPECT IN CONNECTICUT.

[From the Hartford (Conn.) Times, March 31.] Our advices from every part of the State are full of encouragement. The democrats are everywhere full of enthusiasm, and wide awake. At nearly all points we hear of acquisitions to our ranks; and never, since the days of Thomas H. Seymor' for governor, have the masses of the party been animated by a better feeling, or cheered on by more hopeful prospects, than they are at the present time! The party are wide awake, and are up and doing. People everywhere feel that we have had enough of black-republican rule, and they go for a charge. The party that has squandered the people's money, thrown the State \$100,000 in debt, and relied upon bleeding Kansus to sustain itself, is suffering a nying ordeal at the bar of public opinion, and its leaders are trembling with apprehension for the result. Conscious of the weakness of their cause before the people they are resorting to the lavish and corrupt use of maney to save themselves, and they are plying it this week without stint. They are also guilty of attempting to discharge them if they do not vote the black-republican ticket! But the indications are that all will not avail them, and the prospect is that the Our advices from every part of the State are full of en that all will not avail them, and the prospect is that the right will sustain itself against the force of money and power. Democrats! the skies are bright! One and all to the work of Monday!

LECTURE OF GEN. SHIELDS UPON MEXICO.

We copy from the Baltimore American the following emarks of Senator Shields, delivered before the Catholic nstitute of Baltimore on Monday last :

Institute of Baltimore on Monday last:

"The subject of the lecture was Mexico. We can give but a brief reference to the leading ideas of his address. He commenced by describing the physical characteristics of Mexico, the beanty of the country, the variety of the climate, from the heats of the torrid zone to the regions of perpetual snow. Any plant which could grow in any other country could grow in Mexico; any animal which could live in any other country could live in Mexico.

"The speaker alluded to the conquest of the country by Spain—the Romans of those times. He believed that the reports of history concerning the vast empire and advanced civilization of the country when conquered were

the reports of history concerning the vast empire and advanced civilization of the country when conquered were greatly exaggerated. He had seen much of Mexico. From Palo Alto under General Taylor, then under Gen. Wool, and finally under Gen. Scott from Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico. He knew also what Indians were. He had lived among or next neighbor to them half his life, and he had found in Mexico five millions of inhabitants who were neither more nor less than our Indians, softened by clients, exceptled civilized centle, and in their name. were neither more nor less than our Indians, softened by climate, somewhat civilized, gentle, and in their manner temperate and fugal, but still Indians, and he could not believe their ances ors had ever possessed the high degree of civilization attributed to them by Spanish historians. The accusation that the Spaniards had externinated the natives was also untrue. They conquered, subduced, but did not exterminate them. With the Spaniard, the propagation of his faith was the chief object. He came with the sword in one hand and the cross in the other. He plundered, for all soldiers of that day were plunderers, and exposed not the priests or the devotees of the Indian God; but that he exterminated the people was not true, for there they are still, but slightly changed perhaps from those who dwelt in Mexico at the landing of Cortez.

landing of Cortez.

"The lecturer spoke of the struggle which resulted in freeing Mexico from Spain. They adopted our form of government: the model was good, but probably it was too far advanced for them. The revolution was succeeded by two parties who contended for the massiery. They were founded upon Masonic distinctions. One party was the so-called Scotch Masons, the other the York Masons. The former comprised the more respectable and intelli-gent classes—men for inducing immigration of the stronger European races. The York Masons were gent classes—men for inducing immigration of the stronger European races. The York Masons were the natives; they called the other the foreign party; the natives; they cannot the Mexicans." Un-fortunately, they prevailed. They expelled forty thou could Spaniards from the country. This gross act of in fortunately, they prevailed. They expended forly show sand Spaniards from the country. This gross act of in-justice did not pass unpunished, for the men who could be thus unjust towards others could not be just among be thus unjust towards others could not be just among themselves, and Mexico has ever since been the field o

"The lecturer would not point out what should be the policy of our country relative to the acquisition of Mexi. co, but he would say he was opposed to fillibustering. If we did take it all, we should take it by a national and

we did take it all, we should take it by a national and open act. He spoke of the riches of Mexico, and pointed out that country and South America as the future Indies of the United States.

"The lecturer also gave a highly interesting sketch of the captures of the city of Mexico. He said the true history of that war was yet to be written. All the attempts so far had been unequal to the subject. Space forbids our following him further. The lecture was the country of unequalled interest, and the speaker was throughout of unequalled interest, and the speaker was saluted at its close with the most lively demonstrations of applause."

THE PARAGUAY EXPEDITION.—FROBABLE SEXTLEMENT OF THE DIFFICULTY.

[From the Correspondence of the New York Herald, Buenes Ayres, January 27.]

The steamer Primer Argentino, from up the river, is just in, the British packet starts in three hours, and I have just time to inform you of the following facts: Judge Bowlin, our Commissioner, started up the river for Asuncion on the 2d inst., on board the United States

Judge Bowlin, our Commissioner, started up the river for Asuncion on the 2d inst., on board the United States steamer Fulton. He was stopped at the fort of Itaperru, and informed that by a law or decree then in force no armed vessel was allowed to ascend the river Paraguay. Judge Bowlin answered the officer in command that he came in the name of and duly authorized by the United States of America, for the purpose of concluding a treaty with Faraguay, and to seek, peaceably, "indemnity for the past and security for the future." Whilst communications were being interchanged between Commissioner Bowlin and the commander of the four Itaperru the plenipotentiaries sent by the Paraguayan government arrived, and proposed an adjournment to the neutral city of Corrientes, in the Argentine republic. They expressed, on the part of their government, the most auxious desire for a fair, just, and peaceable arrangement with the government of the United States; and, further, that they were authorized to grant to the United States a treaty similar to those at present existing between their government and the governments of England, France, and Sardinia; and, furthermore, to leave to arbitration any and all such claims as the United States or any of its citizens might have against the government of Paraguay. Juligo Bowtin replied that, such being the case, he would not then make a positive answer, but would meet the aforesaid plenipotentiaries at the said city of Corrientes within then make a positive answer, but would meet the afore-said plenipotentiaries at the said city of Corrientes within

thirty days.
On the 80th inst. Judge Bowlin left for the city of Parana, whose our new minister, Hon. Hen. O. Yancey, re-sides. Such is the state of our Paraguayan expedition up

to the present moment.

The steamer Southern Star and sloop Proble left for up the river from Montevideo on the 21st inst.

THE AUSTRIAN OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE

The Frankfort Journal of the 8th Instant published following despatch, which was forwarded on the 28th of February last by the Austrian Minister of Foreign Af-fairs to Count Appony, the Austrian minister at Lon-

Lord A. Loftus has confidentially read to me a despatch in which Lord Malmesbury states that the British g ernment cannot, to its great regret, regard as dispel the fears of war spread since the commencement of ar, and that he consequently feels himself obliged not relax his efforts to prevent a configuration which cer-inly would not remain limited to Italy. The circular despatch addressed by Count Cavour to year, and that he

The circular despatch addressed by Count Cavour to the Sardinian missions on the subject of the loan which the Piedmontese government wishes to centract, with a view to military preparations, offers, according to the opinion of Lord Malmesbury, a favorable opportunity to renew friendly counsels to both parties.

The British cabinet, without adopting the grounds of that circular, which tend to justify the loan on account of the threatening attitude Austria is said to have assumed on the Piedmontese frontier, seems to attach importance to account the view of the state of t

of the threatening attitude Austria is said to have assumed on the Piedmontese frontier, seems to attach importance to ascertain the view we take of that document, and to acquire the conviction that we have no intention of attacking Sardinia; and that, on the contrary, we should feel inclined to give our hand to the Piedmontese government, so as to allow both parties to withdraw their troops from the respective frontiers.

We are folly able to appreciate these friendly overtures, and we willingly unite ourselves with the British government in its endeavors to spare the world, if it is possible, the horrors of a general conflagration. We are glad, therefore, to have the opportunity of entering intentions perfectly clear.

What are the complaints brought against us in Count Cavour's circular? They are to be found in the protests issued by that minister against the preponderating influence which, according to him, Austria exercises in Italy beyond the limits which treaties have assigned her, and which constitute a permanent menace against Sardinia.

Let us examine closer this strange accusation. I may

Let us examine closer this strange accusation. I may be wrong, but I believe it to be in the nature of things that great political bodies will always be called upon to exercise a certain influence on neighboring States. What is important to the general interests is that such influence should never be usurped or abused to the detriment of the independence of another State.

Austria has more than once been in a position to offer a helping hand to the Italian governments overthrown by revolution. That assistance has never been forced upon any one; on the contrary, it has only been accorded at the request of legitimate authority, and with the disinterested view of maintaining public order and tranquillity. Our troops have always been withdrawn as soon as the legitimate authority has been re-established with sufficient firmness to enable it to dispense with their assistance. Count Cayour need not go far back in the history of his country to find an example of services like these recedered by Austria to the dynasty of Savoy. At that time, it is true, the modern theories of public right which Count Cayour has introduced had not yet taken deep root in Piedmont.

We will not ston to revening in detail, the absurd re-

deep root in Piedmont.

We will not stop to examine in detail the proach that has been urged against us as to the confidence which it is safe for our neighbors to feel in the integrity of our intentions, and what has been added with regard to the treaties which exist between ourselves and certain

to the treaties which exist between ourselves and certain Italian States does not appear to us to be worthy of any more serious consideration.

What can there be to find fault with in, or what can be more unavailable on the score of polurar right, or more conducive to the general interests or order and peace, than the existence of treaties between independent States exclusively in the interest of legitimate defence, imposing reciprocal obligations on both the contracting powers, and not influencing in the slightest degree the rights of any third power? But, although these treaties are not in any way opposed to the principle of public right, we can well understand that they are of a nature most obstructive to the ambitious views of a government which, not content the ambitious views of a government which, not content with being absolute within its own dominions, endeavors to assume the character of the privileged organ of the pretended sorrows of Italy, and arrogates to itself the right, disavowed by every other Italian government, of speaking in the name of the whole peninsula. Although Count Cavour admits the right of appealing to foreign aid when that aid is invoked in the interest of discord, he design in the lactions of the country of nies it to legitimate governments which really have a mis-sion to watch over public tranquillity and guard the inter-ests of their peaceable subjects; and these strange princi-ples are proclaimed by the cabinet of Turin at a moment

ples are proclaimed by the cabinet of Turin at a moment when relying for support in its aggressive designs on a great neighboring power.

These contradictions are too self-evident to allow the slightest doubt to obtain that the complaints of the abuse of Austria's influence are but vain and empty pretexts. What may be true in these declamations is this: In 1848 the King of Sardinia invaded Lombardy without a declaration of war, and without being able to justify that rupture of peace except on the grounds of the national sentiment, which urged him to come to the aid of his oppressed brethren. The unjust aggressor was repulsed in two victorious campaigns. Austria took advantage of the fruits of her victory with a moderation which Europe has rendered justice to. Teace once signed, we took it for fruits of her victory with a moderation which Europe has rendered justice to. Peace once signed, we took it for granted. On the other hand, a third attempt never left the programme of the Turin palinet. While awaiting a favorable monerate in invade us again. Piedmont kept up an underhand war against us by allowing free vent to calumny and insult in a licentious press, which made appeals to revolt, addressed to the populations of other Italian States, and by hostile demonstrations of every description.

When only two years after he had ascended the throne When only two years after he had ascended that the our august master, the Emperor, visited his Italian dominions, marking his way by acts of grace and benevotence, the resumentese press resoluted the fury of its attacks, and in its madness even offered a defence of regicide. It was then that we asked of the Turin government the simple question, what guarantees it could offer us against the continuation of a state of things so destructive to the good feeling which we wished to subsist between the two governments; and it is this moderate language which count Cavour speaks of as an attempt on our part to force upon his government a modification of the institutions of his country.

The Emperor's charge d'affaires was recalled from

Turin that he might no longer be an ocular witner an abnormal state of things which the Piedmontese ernment declined to remedy. But this suspension of d plomatic relations did not prevent us from continuing, plomatic relations did not prevent us from continuing, a before, to concert such measures with the Piedmontes government as were of a nature to favor and develop in terrouses and compressed relative

government as were of a nature to fayor and develop in-tercourse and compercial relations; in a word, friendly plations between the two countries.

Despite these good intentions and constant moderation— despite our inexhaustible patience—fanatical cries of war were shouted across the Tessin, especially since the com-mencement of the present year.

mencement of the present year.

In consequence of the agitation produced by the warlike tone of the royal speech on the opening of the Piedmontese Parliament—an agitation which the subsequent
ministerial explanations were certainly not calculated to
allay—the imperial government decided upon sending
reinforcements into the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom.
This measure, dictated by the most common prudence,
was one of a purely defensive nature. The assertion of
Count Cavour, that it was a hostile movement directed
against Sardinia, has as little foundation as his other assertion that the garrisons of Bologne and Ancona had been
reinforced.

einforced.

This is, in a few words, the present position of affairs In all honor, we ask, what can we do to improve it!
Would it be possible to carry moderation and forbear
ance further than we have done? And powers such as ance further than we have done? And powers guch as Great Britain who strive for peace so anxiously and so honorably, will they not feel themselves called upon to stop the source of the evil by bringing Piedmont to a more sane appreciation of her rights and international duties? Let their united efforts provent the cabinet of duties? Let their united efforts provent the cabinet of Turin from continuing its aggressive conduct, in which it has for some years persisted, abusing the good nature of Europe, and, we do not doubt it, the result would be tranquillity and peace in the rest of the peninsula, now bankhed by the continual irritation caused by the cabinet of Turin.

net of Turin.

Let us at once anticipate an objection which we foresee. The discontent of a portion of the populations, especially in Central and Southern Italy, has, we shall be
told, its principal source in the mat-administration of

the governments.

While denying the thousand calumnies by which attempts are made to excite public opinion against those governments, we do not mean to say that everything is perfect in the organization and administrative system of shose countries. Even where the institutions are most shose countries. Even where the institutions are most excellent, we must allow a wide margin for the imperfect manner in which they are carried out. The most different systems have been practised in turn. In consequence of the introduction of institutions which operate admirably where they have been developed and matured by centuries, but which do not seem to be homogeneous to the initial traditions and social condition of the Italians, deplorable scenes of anarchy and disorder have occurred in the Italian peninsula. It was not the councils of Austria which led to those each pages of the modern

history of Italy. On the other hand, we have always ankly applauded every marked improvement in a practical point of view; we have always welcomed with sat staction, and favored to the most of our influence, every rell-meant progress. When consulted we have given aur opinion conscientiously, after a mature examination of the circumstances.

Those measures may not always have produced all the cood which in ght have been expected from them. But who dare throw the whole responsibility upon the acts of he governments. It is an established truth that in the the governments. It is an established truth that in the present day every government, great or small, has great difficulties to contend against. We have shown above that liberty as understood in Fiedmont—a liberty which borders upon licentiousness and a total disregard of the rights of others—is not without serious inconveniences for the neighboring States. We do not the less admit that Fiedmont is the best judge of what system of government is best suited to her. But, however much we may respect its independence, we should not think ourselves justified in imposing on other Italian States a system of government or pointing out the proper moment for introducing improvements of which that system might be susceptible.

However this may be, the great argument brought forward against the Papal gevernment is, that it is mable

might be susceptible.

However this may be, the great argument brought forward against the Papal gevernment is, that it is mable to support itself, and is obliged to rely on foreign assistance. To this we reply that the cabinet of the Vatican has already entered into negotiations with both Austria and France, with a view to the evacuation of the Papal States by the troops of their countries, and the gradual regeneration of the Pontifical army.

By giving armed support to the sovereign Pontiff, driven away by the revolution, Austria and France rendered a great service to the interests of social order. The temporal sovereignty of the Holy Father is one of the guazantees of the free exercise of his apostolic mission, and of the independence of the spiritual head of the Catholic Church. But when the Pontifical government shall declare that the reorganization of its army has made sufficient progress to suffice for the wants of order and internal safety, the Emperor, our august master, will be bappy to be able to recall his troops, because he will see in this result a new pledge of the paternal solicitude which the Holy Father will devote equally to the successive improvement of other branches of the public service.

Let us, however, not overlook that the difficulties which the Pontifical government will meet with in the accomplishment of its lask arise far less from internal causes than from abroad. To entertain a hope for a prompt and happy result in this quarter, nothing is so indispensable, I repeat it, as to make Piedmont respect the independence of other Italian States, as its own independence is respected by them and by us within the limits prescribed by treaties.

It will only be when this result has been obtained that

is respected by treaties.

It will only be when this result has been obtained that the Pontifical government and the other Italian governments can seriously occupy themselves with reforms in their internal administration. And then the friend y advice of Austria, who is more interested than any other power in the welfare and prosperity of the Italian peninsula, shall not be found wanting in the right direction.

ction.

I charge your excellency to submit these consideration

I charge your excellency to submit these considerations to the enlightened appreciation of the British cabinet. We feel too much the immense responsibility which in the eyes of God and man, will weigh upon those who, without legitimate cause, should disturb the peace of Enrope, not to attach the highest importance that a friend and ally like the government of Great Britain should be fully made aware of our pacific intentions.

Austria does not entertain any hostile project against Piedmont. She will abstain, despite the just grievances she might advance in justification, from any aggressive action, so long as, on its part, the Sardinian government respects the inviolability of the imperial territory and that of its allies.

Your excellency is authorized to assure Lord Malmes.

Your excellency is authorized to assure Lord Malmes-bury that the Emperor, our august master, will not un-sheath the sword except in the defence of his indisputa-ble rights, and for the maintenance of treaties which, like the British government, we consider the only safe guarantee of public order.

FROM CHINA. - FURTHER DIFFICULTIES BE-

From the Correspondence of the Boston Heraid, dated on board U. S. steamship Mississippi at Whampon, Jan. 18th.]

In my last letter I gave you to understand that I probably should not trouble you more than once more before ur departure for home, but, as it turns out, we are all able to mistakes and cannot tell what a day was before our departure for home, but, as it turns out, we are all liable to mistakes, and cannot tell what a day may bring forth. While we have been flattering ourselves that the hostilities between the contending parties were at an end, new and sudden causes have broken out which have callnew and sudden causes have broken out which have called for the use of powder, shot, and shell, and many a
noble fellow has been made to kiss the earth. Since my
ist letter new difficulties have taken place in the neighborhood of that doomed city. Canton. A few days ago,
Gen. Straubengae, commander in-chief of the English
forces in Canton, with a party of gentlem an, took it into
their heads to have a frolic about ten miles from Canton,
near a place called the Ninety-Six Vilages, and in the
vicinity of what is called the White Mountains. While
they were enjoying themselves, the braves of one of the
villages, for some cause or other, attacked the party with
the general and Admiral Seymour decided to attack the
village and level it to the ground, and accordingly additional gun-boats, troops, and sailors were sent up here
from Hong-Kong. Saturday, the 8th instant, was the
day decided upon for the attack, and on the evening preceding two hundred sailors and marines, with field
pieces, left the English frigate Cambrian, lying here, and
proceeded to the scene of action. At 8, a.m., on the

proceeded to the scene of action. At 8, a. m., on the day appointed, the gun-boats commenced bombarding the villages, and kept it up over three hours, making sad havoc among the dwellings of the inhabitants. After the lambardment, the General, aided by Colonel Holloway, landed with two thousand men and two hundred artillerists, when a regular battle ensued between them and the brayes, the result of which was the defeat of the latter with a loss of one hundred and fiftr. The loss of the English is reported to be to killed and a large number of wounded. It is thought, however, that the English loss was much more severe. After the fight the village was fired and every dwelling destroyed. The general impression here among all Europeans is, that the insult offered to the General and his party was not of a nature to warrant such a severe punishment. In fact, it is thought that the General had no good reason to venture into the country mmongst these infuriated people. is thought that the treneral had no good reason to ven-ture into the country amongst these infuriated people, and it locks as if it was done on purpose to keep up the quarrel with the Chinese people with a view of breaking the late treaty, for the English dislike the idea of giving up Canton and are desirous, if possible, to get the city into their sole possession. It is pretty ceitain that feet Staubenzae and Admiral Seymour have not won any new laurels for themselves in their last act in the Chinese waters.

I am sorry to record the fact that another Massachusetts I am sorry to record the fact that another Massachuseus ship, the Live Yankee, of Boston, Capt. Thorndike, has lately sailed from Macoa with cleven kundred coelles for Havana. The coolle trade is equally as bad as the African slave trade, yet all of the ships, or nearly all of them, engaged in this new traffic hall from moral Massachusatts, that dear Christian State which cried so tack for poor, "bleeding Kansas." Would it not be well for Massachusetts to have Capt. Thorndike arrested, as thate Minister (Reed) to China from our government, de clared the traffic in coolies to be as criminal as the Africa The French squadron have bombarded and taken pos

session of several small towns and villages along the sessione and up the river in Cochin China. At last account the squadron was awaiting reinforcements, when an attempt will be made to proceed into the interior and cap

tempt will be made to proceed into the interior and cap-fure some of the enemy's strongholds.

The English frigates, the Retribution and Cruiser, as-ashore in the Yanktsekiang, and all efforts to get them cut have thus far proved fruitless. They will be obliged to remain where they are, guarded by their crews, until the spring tides, when they will probably be got off. Lord Elgin has arrived at Shanghae from up the river. On his way down his gun-boat was fired into by the rebels, and an officer and one sailor wounded. For this outrage his lordship caused as many of the forts as could be reached to be blown up. The rebel forces are multi-plying daily, and their movements are not only a terror be reached to be blown up. The rebel forces are multiplying daily, and their movements are not only a terror to the Chinese, but to the European residents. Treaties have been made between the four great powers and this country, but you may rest assured that the difficulties in this country are not yet over with; in fact, they have not yet fairly shown themselves. The country, or a large portion of it, is in possession of the rebels; while, on the other hand, the Chinese people are deadly opposed to all foreigners. The hraves, who fought so gallantly at the fall of Canton, are estimated at fifty thousand strong, and they are ready and willing to fight all outside barbarians. An instance of Chinese treachery occurred a few days since. One of our boats proceeded up the river, and the neal planded a few miles from Whampon, when they were met by a large body of the natives, who attempted to seize and cut off a half dozen Yankee heads, but the measucceded in reaching their beat in asfety.

The commencement of the New Year was duly cele-

The commencement of the New Year was duly cele-brated on board of the good old Mississippi. In the evening we had a theatrical performance, a temporary stage being erected for the occasion, and the ship beautifully